Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 DODE-00 H-03 AEC-11 IO-14

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C: MR. SONNENFELDT
EUR/SOV:JFMATLOCK
S/S - MR. FRY

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R 170240Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 032441

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR AGREEMENT

1. WE HAVE NOTED THAT BREZHNEV SPEECH IN HAVANA JANUARY 30 CONTAINED FOLLOWING PASSAGE RELATING TO US-USSR AGREEMENT ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR:

"THIS (THE AGREEMENT), ONE CAN SAY, IS THE FIRST SIGN BRINGING HOPE FOR A LESSENING OF THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR. UNDERLINE FOR THE UNITED STATES CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS ACTUALLY UNDERTAKEN NOT TO USE NUCLEAR

WEAPONS AND FORCE IN GENERAL AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION, ITS ALLIES AND OTHER COUNTRIES END UNDER-LINE. OF COURSE, THE SOVIET UNION, TOO, HAS ADOPTED A SIMILAR OBLIGATION. WE HOLD THAT THIS AGREEMENT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, OF THEIR SECURITY."

- 2. IF FOREIGN OFFICIALS SHOULD CITE UNDERLINED PASSAGE ABOVE AS BASIS FOR ALLEGATION THAT US HAS UNDERTAKEN IN THIS AGREEMENT NOT TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST THE USSR, ADDRESSEES SHOULD CATEGORICALLY REJECT THIS INTERPRETATION AS TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION.
- 3. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, WE HAVE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR AGREEMENT DOES NOT BAN THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND MAKES NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS. PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT IS TO PRESERVE THE PEACE AND PREVENT WAR. IT DOES NOT ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF WHAT HAPPENS IF WAR CANNOT BE PREVENTED AND MAKES NO DISTINCTION AS TO CATEGORIES OF WEAPONS THAT CAN BE USED IN CASE OF WAR. THESE POINTS SHOULD BE FORCEFULLY RESTATED IF BREZHNEV'S WORDS CITED ABOVE ARE QUOTED OUT OF CONTEXT OR INTERPRETED IN MANNER CONTRARY TO LANGUAGE OF AGREEMENT. KISSINGER

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